

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 SS-15 H-01 DHA-02  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ORM-02 NEA-10 DODE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 /069 W  
-----098884 120240Z /65

R 111455Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 890  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11646

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, SREF, PFOR, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET EMIGRATION TOTHE UNITED STATES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 6919, (B) MOSCOW 11260

### SUMMARY

SINCE REFTEL A, WHICH DISCUSSED DROP IN ARMENIAN EMIGRATION  
DURING JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 1977, EMIGRATION PATTERN HAS CHANGED  
SUFFICIENTLY  
TO MAKE SOME MODIFICATION TO CONCLUSIONS REACHED  
THEREIN. AVERAGE MONTHLY ARMENIAN EMIGRATION FROM JANUARY THROUGH  
JULY IS 124, DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM 1976 MONTHLY AVERAGE. HOWEVER,  
OVER-ALL EMIGRATION TO US FOR SAME PERIOD HAS DROPPED 22 PERCENT,  
DUE PRIMARILY TO 41 PERCENT DROP IN JEWISH EMIGRATION. END  
SUMMARY

1. FIGURES FOR SOVIET EMIGRATION TO US IN 1977 CAN BE SUMMARIZED  
AS FOLLOWS:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY
ARMENIAN	189	106	139	47	85	161	143
JEWISH	22	43	38	43	27	28	22
OTHER	12	14	4	15	10	13	20
TOTAL	223	163	181	105	122	202	175

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ARMENIAN EMIGRATION CLIMBED IN MAY AND JUNE, AS PREDICTED  
REFTEL A, AND ALSO REMAINED HIGH IN JULY. JEWISH EMIGRATION,  
HOWEVER, ALREADY SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN 1976 AVERAGE, DROPPED  
EVEN FURTHER IN MAY, JUNE AND JULY. IF THESE TRENDS CONTINUE,  
TOTAL SOVIET EMIGRATION TO US IN 1977 WILL BE ABOUT 500 BELOW  
1976 FIGURE, WITH DECREASE DIVIDED ROUGHLY EQUALLY BETWEEN

ARMENIAN AND JEWISH EMIGRANTS. PERCENTAGE DECREASE WILL, OF COURSE, BE MUCH GREATER FOR JEWISH EMIGRATION, BECAUSE OF SMALLER NUMBERS INVOLVED.

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT FIND DECREASE IN ARMENIAN EMIGRATION REMARKABLE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN RESUMPTION OF EMIGRATION TO LEBANON (REFTEL A). SHARP DECREASE IN JEWISH EMIGRATION TO US IS MORE PUZZLING. UNLESS THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER, THIS WILL BE LOWEST LEVEL OF DIRECT JEWISH EMIGRATION TO US SINCE 1972. THIS DECREASE CONTRASTS WITH MODERATE INCREASE IN EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL THIS FAR THIS YEAR (REFTEL B) AND ALSO WITH RECENT SOVIET PERFORMANCE ON US REP LIST CASES. IN CONTRAST TO DISMAL PERFORMANCE ON REP LIST 18 (7 PERCENT OF CASES RESOLVED IN 7 1/2 MONTHS), EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATE SEVENTEEN CASES (13 PERCENT) FROM REP LIST 19 RESOLVED IN FIRST FOUR MONTHS AFTER IT WAS PRESENTED.

3. IF A SIGNAL IS INVOLVED HERE, IT IS SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY. ONE PLAUSIBLE HYPOTHESIS IS THAT CENTRAL AUTHORITIES DECIDE REP LIST CASES AND HAVE MAINTAINED REASONABLE RATE OF RESOLUTION, WHEREAS LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE MORE AUTHORITY IN DECIDING REGULAR CASES AND, INTERPRETING SOVIET PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST US SALT AND HUMAN RIGHTS POSITIONS AS SIGNAL TO THEM, HAVE DELAYED OR REFUSED GREATER NUMBER OF JEWISH APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT TO US.  
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4. WE INTEND TO SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION INFORMALLY TO MFA OFFICIALS THIS DROP IN DIRECT EMIGRATION AND EXPRESS HOPE IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY PHENOMENON.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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